

---

# CRISS+CROSS

---



Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
8900 Sheridan Drive  
Clarence, NY 14031  
716-634-2332  
[holycrossclarence@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarence@gmail.com)  
[www.holycrossclarence.com](http://www.holycrossclarence.com)

**November 2016**

***Working together to connect people to Jesus***

---

## ***Taste that the Lord is Good***

*“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” 1 Peter 2:1-3*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we think about good food and hospitality. Chances are, we may invite people over to our homes, or we may be invited to someone else’s home for dinner. Have you been invited over for dinner by someone, perhaps who is from a different culture or just has a different cooking style than you’re used to? Did the food taste “funny”? We might be tempted to tell a “white lie” and say we like the food even if we don’t, in an effort to be polite. Worse, we might afterwards say something malicious to people who are more “like us” or more used to the same things we’re used to. But food offered in Christian fellowship is given to us by God through another part of the body of Christ.

Psalm 34 reminds us, “Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.” Yet the very same psalm offers a Gospel message: “Taste and see that the Lord is good!” It points forward to our Savior, Jesus, who died and rose to forgive our hypocrisy and deceitfulness. He gives us His own body and blood so that we may taste and see that He is good. In the Sacrament of the Altar His goodness becomes part of us. It empowers us to forgive and build the body of Christ.

Through Word and Sacrament the Holy Spirit offers the pure spiritual milk that nourishes us into salvation. When Jesus comes again in glory we will be grown up fully into salvation, because we have tasted that the Lord is good!

Dear Jesus, You earned our salvation. Grant that we may taste the pure spiritual milk of Your goodness that nourishes us into salvation. Amen.  
May our Lord Jesus Christ keep you and me in the one true faith now and forever,

*-Pastor Nickel*





### **Crossroads**

#### **November 5th from 5-6pm**

Holy Cross is hosting a once-a-month Saturday evening devotional experience. We praise God with some contemporary christian songs, meditate on the Word with a short devotion, and connect with others in God's love and peace. All are welcome! Mark your calendars for November 5th at 5:00 PM, and please join us for this exciting new devotional experience.

Please contact Samantha with any questions at  
samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com

**Prayer Partners** This year we have 11 confirmation students. As they go on their journey of learning the Word of God we ask that you as a congregation member would keep them in your prayers. We are also looking for people to sign up to be prayer partners and receive the name of a specific student to pray for. God hears each beautiful word of your heart. Please prayerfully consider becoming a prayer partner. E-mail  
samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com to sign up.

### **Give Thanks Gathering**

On Saturday November 19th the Sunday School will Gather & Give thanks in K hall from 2pm-4pm. We will begin our gathering by offering guests donuts, cider, & hot chocolate. We will then have a kid-friendly devotion about "giving thanks" before we make the cards to give to shut-ins!

### **Youth Group**

Join us for our bi-weekly youth group for Sr. High youth on Sunday nights from 5-6. Samantha will lead this new group on Nov. 6th, 20th & December 4th. We will meet in the upstairs of the Christian Center for games, the Word, and tons of fun!!!  
Please contact Samantha at  
samanthabrown.holycross@gmail.com  
with any questions!



### **AED's Arrive at Holy Cross**

Per our voters' meeting, Holy Cross has purchased and received two new AED's for installation in both the church and in the Holy Cross Christian Center. And in case you are wondering, AED stands for "automated external defibrillator". Along with the AED's, about 15 of our members and friends received American Heart Association training in basic lifesaving CPR and AED usage. Many thanks to all who stepped forward to help protect the safety of our congregation, and a special thanks to Council Secretary Courtney West, who spearheaded the project through to completion. We pray that we never need to use these tools, but we also thank our Lord for providing us with these resources and the people willing to serve in this capacity, and trusting in His will for all.



### **He-Brews** **NEXT Meeting Thursday** **November 17th**

He-Brews generally meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30 pm; at a member home or at a local restaurant. Watch the weekly announcements for the location. We do not stay out late as most have to work in the morning. A typical gathering starts with fellowship followed by a Christian video presentation and discussion. You do not need to drink beer to join us, other beverages both with and without alcohol are often enjoyed. All are welcome – including neighbors and friends, to come and see serious support given to fellow members and a willingness to help others and our church. He-Brews is open to all men, young and old.

### **Choir News**

The Holy Cross Choir season has begun but we still have room for you! We will meet at the church on Tuesday nights at 7pm. If you are interested in joining please contact William Cook, our choir director, at 741-0040. Men's Choir rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays at 8pm. Contact Bill Cook for more information.



**Sunday School** We have had a fantastic time in Sunday School so far "Growing in Christ". We are

learning about our Savior, Jesus Christ as we get to the heart of the Bible and engage students to learn with age-appropriate discussions. Through crafts, games, and worship music your child will experience a hands-on way to learn and internalize Bible stories!

### **December Criss Cross** **Deadline**

Please submit any items for the December Criss Cross **no later than November 15th**. Items may be left on the desk in the HCCC or in the secretary mailbox or may be emailed to [holycrossclarence@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarence@gmail.com)

**Wednesday Nights @ Holy Cross**

Holy Cross is inviting you to join us on Wednesday nights for fellowship and the Word. November 2nd we will conclude the Jonah Bible Study. November 9th and 16th We will study Habakkuk, and the 16th we will also have A Review of Holy Communion: what it is and why we do it. The Jonah and Habakkuk studies will be in the Christian Center conference room. The review of Holy Communion will be located in the sanctuary. All studies start at 7:00 PM.



**Weather Related Closings**

As we enter into the winter season it is good to remember that in the unlikely event of weather related closing, Holy Cross' closings and delays will be announced on WGRZ, Channel 2, and online at [www.wgrz.com/closings](http://www.wgrz.com/closings)



**Wednesday Evening Advent Services**

6:00pm Dinner / 7:15pm Hymn Sing /  
7:30pm Service

**Wed Nov 30** Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
44 Chapel Rd, Buffalo, NY 14217

**Wed Dec 7** Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
8900 Sheridan Drive Clarence, NY 14031

**Wed Dec 14** St. Luke Lutheran Church  
900 Maryvale Dr. Buffalo, NY 14225

***FALL BACK! SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NOV. 5th!***

**Hymn Festival**

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1135 Oliver Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
Sunday, **November 13, 2016**. The Hymn Festival will kick off the Reformation Celebration on a high note. Bring the whole family and join us as we celebrate and sing hymns that helped to move the Reformation forward. The featured speaker and performer will be Paul Soulek, organist and composer at St. John's Lutheran Church in Seward, Nebraska.

## **Update From Council**

Once again Holy Cross continues to be blessed with generous giving; so much so, that as of the end of August, our giving has been up by 8% and our expenses are down by 3%, (compared to our 2016 budget). And thanks to some designated offerings, when the Council considered this, and our other financial metrics, Holy Cross was able to make a payment to reduce the mortgage on the Christian Center by approximately \$42K, leaving our current balance at approximately \$125K. A big thank you, to everyone, from everyone, for your generous giving. In other news, we hope everyone has met Samantha Brown by now. Thanks to considerable help from Camp Pioneer, we will have Samantha working with us until May, while she completes her internship as she pursues a degree as a Director of Christian Education from Concordia, Chicago. Speaking of Camp Pioneer, we hope everyone has seen their urgent appeal for help. As a Church, we have already made our 2016 commitment to Camp Pioneer, but we are reviewing their need as we prepare our 2017 budget. In addition, a group of us went to the Camp Pioneer informational meeting on Wednesday, October 19th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda. Lastly, we continue to strive to provide opportunities for all to grow in their Christian walk. On October 14th and 15th we will be hosted a LCMS seminar, "Connect to Discipleship", as well as the many other opportunities for adult and youth Christian Education we host weekly. (And let's not forget the "Netflix" of Christian material, "Right Now Media", that is available to all Holy Cross members for in-home studies. Please see Peter Olsen for log-in information.) We encourage all our members to take advantage of these opportunities so that we may all go out and better reflect the love of God to our neighbors and friends. Our next council meeting will be Thursday November 17th at 7:00pm.

-Tom Marzano  
Council President

## **UPCOMING WORSHIP CALENDAR**

- Nov. 6                    8:00 Divine Service  
                                 9:30 Christian Education Hour  
                                 11:00 Divine Service
- Nov. 13                   8:00 Divine Service  
                                 9:30 Christian Education Hour  
                                 11:00 Divine Service  
                                 with Praise Band
- Nov. 20                   Thanksgiving Service  
                                 8:00 Divine Service  
                                 9:30 Christian Education Hour  
                                 11:00 Divine Service
- Nov. 27                   8:00 Divine Service  
                                 9:30 Christian Education Hour  
                                 11:00 Divine Service

Wednesday November 30th Advent  
Service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
6:00pm Dinner  
7:15pm Hymn Sing  
7:30 Service



### **Praise Band News**

The Praise Band meets  
Wednesdays at  
6:00pm.

## **Pioneer Camp Appeal**

Eastern District President Chris Wicher and camp director Rev. Alex Knowles are holding meetings about the current situation at Pioneer Camp. Past generous support from Holy Cross and others, has really made a difference in the lives of many people. As you know, 2016 was a great year at Pioneer Camp and even in the fall months, hundreds of youth, teens and adults came to our camp to grow in their love and faith toward God.

As you may know, the Pioneer Camp Board of Directors issued an appeal to raise an additional \$100,000 between October and December 31, 2016. As of October 18th \$26,000 has been raised. Decreased contributions over the last two years is the major factor as to why Pioneer is in this crisis situation, that, combined with the rising cost of maintaining facilities and expanding programs has greatly stressed the finances of the camp.

The camp has solutions in place for 2017, but needs to get there. 2017 is already looking strong with an increase in retreats, events and stronger summer programs. The food is great and the facilities are improving every year. The staff has done a great job in developing a strong business model that is in keeping with our vision: to show the face of Jesus to all ~ by words and actions ~ amidst the splendor of God's creation; and mission: to offer a safe, joy-filled outdoor experience where lives are renewed and strengthened in Christ.

God has touched the hearts and minds of so many of us at camp, and we want to be able to see that continue for our children and our grandchildren. In this dark and difficult world, Camp Pioneer is still a place where our kids, whatever age they are, can still be kids, and where families can grow together.

Camp Pioneer needs our support now. If you can support camp today, please visit the camp website at [www.pioneercamp.org](http://www.pioneercamp.org) and click the "Support Pioneer" button or mail a tax deductible donation to: Pioneer, 9324 LakeShore Road, Angola, NY 14006.

If you cannot afford to financially support Pioneer at this time, you can make a pledge to support by the end of the year! Please send Pioneer a note with the date and your pledge to: Pioneer, 9324 Lake Shore Road, Angola, NY 14006 or to [alex.knowles@pioneercamp.org](mailto:alex.knowles@pioneercamp.org) or call the office at (716) 549-1420.

Thank you for your support for Pioneer and please pray for God's will to be done.



### **Care-Ring Circle**

To all the Care-Ringers who provide meals for those in need, Thank you! Until you have experienced the love and generosity from our Holy Cross family, you couldn't know how much it is appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering to make a meal for those in need please contact Doreen Borschel at 688-8096. I will add you to the list of volunteers in our email group.



### **Visitation Care**

If you are or will be hospitalized or homebound and desire Christian care from the Holy Cross staff, please phone the church office at 634-2332 and/or email [holycrossclarenc@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossclarenc@gmail.com) to let us know. Please do not assume that we know your situation because for many reasons we often don't. We will do our best to visit you, and if homebound, see that you receive communion.



### **Women's Bible Study Group**

The Women's Bible Study Group meets on Tuesdays (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month) in the conference room of HCCC. We begin our social time at 9:30am with a study begin time of 9:45- to conclude about 11am. We are lay led, participants volunteer each week to facilitate a particular lesson. We also volunteer to bring "goodies" from our kitchens to go with our coffee.

This fall our Bible study is on the book of Joshua. Our study guide is titled: JOSHUA---"The Power of God's Promises" by Donald Baker. He writes: "The book of Joshua reads like an exciting novel--from the miraculous crossing of the Jordan to the crash of the walls of Jericho and the sun stopping in the sky. Through it all, we see God's faithfulness and power. Studying Joshua encourages us to persevere in our own daily battles, arming us with the powerful weapons we need-- God's promises".

Our study continues for the month of November in chapters 10-12 of Joshua with the lesson titles: "Learning to Trust God" for Nov.1st. On the 15th we will study selected verses from chapters 13-19 in the lesson titled:"Attitudes Which Help Us Grow". "Making Our Community Christian" is our study for November 22nd from Joshua 20-21 and we will end the month Nov 29th with a lesson from Joshua 22 entitled "Healing our Misunderstandings".

So join us whenever you are able! The coffee pot is on, sweet treats await to be tasted, but we need you to share the Word and fellowship with us. Remember, it is always good to begin the day in God's word!



## Our November Servants

Communion Assistants: Ken Grek & Dave Chalmers Francis Cote' & Scott Brooks

Ushers: Robert Corneck & Doug Garlapo Robert Diem & Larry Weipert

### Lay Readers:

<b>Nov 6:</b>	Ann Craig	Nancy Cote'
<b>Nov 13:</b>	Kurt Wozniak	Marilyn Cook
<b>Nov 20:</b>	Jo Corneck	Brian Humphreys
<b>Nov 27:</b>	Ken Handley	Sue Tichy

### Acolytes:

<b>Nov 6:</b>	Mason Kelkenberg	Helene Olsen
<b>Nov 13:</b>	Christie Wood	Emily Hare
<b>Nov 20:</b>	Morgan Chalmers	Madelyn Standish
<b>Nov 27:</b>	Lindsey Chalmers	Sammy Gugliuzza

### AV Team:

<b>Nov 6:</b>	Madeline Olsen
<b>Nov 13:</b>	Oscar Handley
<b>Nov 20:</b>	Matthew Wiepert
<b>Nov 27:</b>	Kenny Handley

## *Thank you for serving!*

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

*- 1 Peter 4:10-11 NIV*





## **Heritage Home**

Our Thanksgiving

visit at the Heritage Home friends will be Sunday, November 27th, at 10 a.m. The Bible story will be "The Leprous Man Thanks Jesus" Luke 17:11-19. We will sing songs of thanks to our Lord and make a Thanksgiving placemats for each of the residents to use at an upcoming meal. What a wonderful way to start Thanksgiving week! This ministry has been in effect for 25 years. The current team is Alfrieda, Ron, and Margaret We invite you to come visit with us (after early service and before late service.)



## **November Anniversaries**

*Carl Klingenschmitt & Sue Fay Allen 11/6*

*Larry & Sallye NeGron 11/18*

*Doug Hartley & Kristy Long 11/23*

*Jack & Jill Carl 11/26*

## **November Birthdays**

*Jill Lindell 11/1*

*Elizabeth Ropach 11/2*

*Robin Smith 11/2*

*Pastor Nickel 11/4*

*Traci Roland 11/4*

*Scott Brooks 11/5*

*Hannah Donley 11/6*

*Sophia Handley 11/6*

*Logan NeGron 11/6*

*Joe Hughes 11/9*

*Cassandra Stefanik 11/11*

*John Zachau 11/11*

*Cory Shelton 11/12*

*Alycia Tomaino 11/12*

*Linda Bauer 11/14*

*Ryan NeGron 11/15*

*Kathy Braunscheidel 11/16*

*Mason Kelkenberg 11/21*

*Jack Carl 11/21*

*Kenneth Keiper 11/21*

*Allinee NeGron 11/21*

*Elija Garner 11/23*

*Ethan Garner 11/23*

*Megynn Cocco 11/26*

*Bob Diem 11/28*

*Stephen Hare 11/28*

*Peter Olsen 11/28*

*Robert Pellnat 11/30*